

Serial No.: 09/808,641

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The title has been amended so as to be more descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's proposed new title. However, since many of the claims are other than method claims, the amended title still includes the original recitation. Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion of adding "having reading errors" at the end of the title.

The drawings have been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the noted allowability of claims 3-5, 8-10, 13-20 and 24-31. These claims will be in condition for allowance upon being amended to independent form.

**II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 21-23 AND 32 UNDER
35 USC §103(a)**

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 21-23 and 32 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) based on *Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) (Figs. 6-9)*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

A feature of the present invention is a method or apparatus for reading data, including performing a reading operation for all of designated address regions among the plurality of address regions while holding read error information regarding the read error in the case where a read error occurs during reading of data from one of the plurality of address regions.

The AAPA does not teach or suggest such feature of the invention, and does not obtain the effect of the present invention of securing real time data reproduction regardless of the generation of read errors. The present invention may provide an advantage whereby even when a read error occurred during a reading operation, the reading operation is not stopped. Therefore, data to be transferred to a data

Serial No.: 09/808,641

conversion device can be continuously obtained and accordingly, real-time reproduction can be easily achieved and maintained. Furthermore, read error information obtained from a drive may be effectively utilized. Interruption of a reproduction process or disturbance in information reproduced from data output from a data conversion device (e.g., motion picture) can be suppressed.

The Examiner contends that Figs. 6-9 of AAPA disclose the invention as recited in the claims. However, each of independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 22 recites in one manner or another the features of (i) reading all of the designated address regions among the plurality of address regions; while (ii) holding read error information regarding read errors in the case where a read error occurs during the reading of data from one of the plurality of address regions; and (iii) transferring the read error information to a data conversion device.

The Examiner argues that Figs. 6-9 teach such configuration of features. However, it is important to note that Figs. 6-7 relate to a *first* conventional embodiment. Fig. 8 relates to a *different, second* conventional embodiment. Fig. 9 simply illustrates the control algorithm depending on whether the embodiment of Figs. 6-7 or the embodiment of Fig. 8 is implemented.

i. *First Embodiment (Figs. 6-7)*

According to the embodiment of Figs. 6-7, a reading operation stops before all designated address regions have been read upon the occurrence of a read error. (See, e.g., Spec., Page 4, Lines 19-27). Thus, the embodiment of Figs. 6-7 does *not* teach or suggest "reading all of the designated address regions in the case where a read error occurs" as recited in the claims.

ii. *Second Embodiment (Fig. 8)*

Regarding the embodiment of Fig. 8, a reading operation continues even when a reading error occurs. However, the read error is not reported to the host system as recited in the claims. (See, e.g., Spec., Page 6, Lines 3-8). For example, claims 1, 6, 11, etc. refer to transferring the read error information to the data conversion device.

Serial No.: 09/808,641

The embodiment of Fig. 8 does not teach or suggest "transferring the read error information to a data conversion device" as recited in the claims.

Fig. 9 simply illustrates the operation of the host system depending on whether the method of Figs. 6-7 or method of Fig. 8 is utilized. Such figure is provided in the application for ease of explanation, and does not represent a conventional single device.

In other words, none of the particular embodiments disclosed in AAPA Figs. 6-9 teach or suggest (i) performing a reading operation for all of the designated address regions among the plurality of address regions while (ii) holding read error information regarding the read error in the case where a read error occurs during reading of the data, and (iii) transferring the read error information to the data conversion device. While the embodiment of Figs. 6-7 may teach reporting an error, and the embodiment of Fig. 8 may teach continuing reading even upon the detection of a read error, neither the embodiment of Figs. 6-7 nor the embodiment of Fig. 8 teach or suggest the combination of features as recited in the claims.

For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-32 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Serial No.: 09/808,641

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP



Mark D. Saralino
Reg. No. 34,243

DATE: September 17, 2004

The Keith Building
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113
C:\GEN\YAMA\yamap756.amd.wpd